



# Certification Programs for Irrigation Professionals



Commercial and residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for more than seven billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. As much as half of that is wasted due to evaporation, wind, and irrigation design, installation, and maintenance. As part of an overall effort to improve national water efficiency, WaterSense, a program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will recognize certification programs for irrigation professionals that advance the principles and applications of water-efficient irrigation.

## WaterSense Labeled Certification Programs for Irrigation Professionals

Programs that earn the WaterSense label have met several criteria to ensure rigorous testing and certification processes that accurately assess professional competency in designing, installing, maintaining, or auditing water-efficient irrigation systems. To qualify for recognition, programs must evaluate proficiency through examinations and be subject to independent oversight.

WaterSense will only label programs that certify experienced irrigation system design, installation/maintenance, and auditing professionals. Certified professionals will have confirmed their ability to assess critical soil/water/plant relationships and resulting impacts on irrigation system efficiency. Irrigation professionals must also renew their certification periodically to confirm their qualifications and demonstrate awareness of recent innovations and technology developments.

## Water Efficiency Expertise

WaterSense labeled certification programs will verify professional proficiency in water-efficient irrigation system design, installation and maintenance, and performance audits.

### Irrigation System Design

Irrigation design professionals with WaterSense labeled certification can tailor irrigation systems to the surrounding landscape and local climate conditions.

### Irrigation System Installation/Maintenance

Installation and maintenance professionals with WaterSense labeled certification are capable of selecting the appropriate equipment, site layout, and proper scheduling for optimal irrigation system performance.

### Irrigation System Audits

Audits conducted by irrigation system professionals with WaterSense labeled certification can identify systems that are distributing water unequally or inefficiently and determine how to improve performance.

### What to Look for

In the near future, when seeking irrigation services, you will be able to look for professionals certified by WaterSense labeled programs. Also, look for the WaterSense label on other water-efficient products and services that meet EPA criteria. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>.